

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1515

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA 4)

E.O. 11652 : N/A

TAGS : PINT, PINS, FR

SUBJECT : CORSICA : THREE GROUPS SPEAK OUT

REF : NICE A-3 1/26/78

NICE A-22 8/18/77

SUMMARY - SOMEWHAT CHAGRINED, PERHAPS, BY THE RPR CLEAN SWEEP
OF THE FOUR DEPUTY SEATS IN CORSICA ON MARCH 19, THE FRONT
DE LIBERATION NATIONALE CORSE (FLNC) AND THE UNIONE DI U
POPULU CORSU (UPC) CALLED PRESS CONFERENCES TO CLARIFY
THEIR POSITION, DENOUNCE THE RECENT ELECTION AND DENOUNCE
EACH OTHER. A FEW DAYS BEFORE THE FRONT D ACTION NATIONALE
CONTRE L INDEPENDANCE ET L AUTONOMIE (FRANCIA) HAD RESTATED
ITS INTENTION OF KEEPING CORSICA PART OF FRANCE : BY FORCE
IF NECESSARY. END SUMMARY.

BOTH THE FLNC AND THE UPC PROBABLY FELT THE NEED TO CALL
ATTENTION TO THEMSELVES AND THEIR PROGRAM AFTER THE RECENT
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ELECTION WHICH IS READ BY MANY AS A STRONG REJECTION BY THE
VOTERS OF AUTONOMY OR INDEPENDENCE FOR CORSICA. THE UPC
CALLED FOR A REFERENDUM IN 18-20 MONTHS TO EXPRESS PREFERENCE
FOR THE VARIOUS SOLUTIONS PROPOSED FOR CORSICA. THE INTERIM
PERIOD SHOULD BE USED TO CLEAN UP VOTING FRAUD. THE
SPOKESMAN REJECTED JOINING WITH THE FLNC AND STRESSES UPC
LEGALITY AND LEGITIMACY.

THE FLNC'S PRESS CONFERENCE WAS CLANDESTINE WITH THEATRICAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR LEADING BLINDFOLDED NEWSREPORTERS TO THE PLACE WHERE THE CONFERENCE WAS HELD. ONE INDIVIDUAL, LEO BATTESTI, WAS UNMASKED AND WHILE DENYING HE WAS THE FLNC LEADER CLAIMED TO HAVE TAKEN PART IN TWO ACTS OF SABOTAGE AND APPARENTLY DID MUCH OF THE TALKING FOR THE FLNC. THE UPC WAS BRANDED AS FOLLOWERS OF A POLICY OF COMPROMISE AND FLNC POLICY DESCRIBED AS FORCING THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT BY THE STRUGGLE, TO RECOGNIZE THE FACT OF CORSICAN NATIONALITY.

COMMENT - PRESUMABLY CORSICA IS IN FOR MORE BOMBING IF THE FLNC AND FRANCIA KEEP THEIR PROMISES. ON THE OTHER HAND CLANDESTINE MEETINGS WITH HOODED REPRESENTATIVES OF VARIOUS SECRET ORGANIZATIONS MAKE IT DIFFICULT TO ASSESS THE STRENGTH OF THE ORGANIZATION AND TO KNOW TO WHAT EXTENT THE PARTICIPANTS REPRESENT ORGANIZATION POLICY. UNLESS THERE ARE DENIALS DURING SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS WITH THE PRESS, HOWEVER, IT CAN BE ASSUMED THAT THE RECENT FLNC AND FRANCIA PRESS CONFERENCES WERE OFFICIAL .

FOR ITS PART THE UPC'S PROPOSALS INDICATE CONCERN OVER ITS IMAGE OF BEING LEGAL AND LEGITIMATE AND ITS CLAIM TO REPRESENT THE REAL ASPIRATIONS OF CORSICANS.

PRESS CLIPPINGS ON THE THREE PRESS CONFERENCES BEING POUCHEO
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TO PARIS AND DEPARTMENT.
EDENSWORD

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